

# Bookmobile rolling out

Efforts underway but still short of funding goal

By Jared Meisinger

The Herald-Zeitung

The New Braunfels Public Library is looking to expand to a new branch — only this one will be on wheels.

The New Braunfels Public Library Foundation has been hard at work raising funds for the bookmobile that they are hoping to purchase and start modifying soon.

A bookmobile takes books and materials to children and seniors who might otherwise not be able to visit the main library facility and procure these items. Most of the services available at the library will be included in the bookmobile, such as reader's advisory services, computers, entertainment resources, classes, job search assistance and other programs.

The NBPLF needs to raise a total of \$230,000 to purchase and modify the vehicle. The City of New Braunfels will cover the annual operating costs, and the existing library staff will man the vehicle. The foundation has its eyes on a vehicle that includes a 3,000-book capacity, custom book carts, solar panels, LED lighting, Wi-Fi, skylights, an Americans with Disabilities Act lift and an electric awning for creating usable, covered and shaded outdoor space.

Library director Gretchen Pruett typed up a list of reasons a bookmobile is right for New Braunfels. Some of the points included:

- "The (NBPL) has identified a need to ensure quality library services to the outer edges of the city limits and

into the (extraterritorial jurisdiction) of the city on a weekly basis throughout the year. Current library infrastructure and city growth make this increasingly difficult."

- "The bookmobile would add special programming and outreach during the summer months in support of the library summer reading programs."

- "The primary focus of the bookmobile outreach is children — birth through high school — and senior citizens, especially those living in nursing homes or senior living facilities. These two groups have limited transportation to the library facility in our community but are traditionally heavy library users."

- "New Braunfels experienced a 17.3 percent growth in population from 2008 to 2012 and it shows no signs of slowing down. The growth is primarily experienced in the southern parts of town, especially the southeastern area, which averages a distance of five miles from the current library facility. A trip to the library can take 20 minutes each way now and longer during the summer months."

- Bookmobiles delay the need for an additional library branch and "continue to be an effective library service model for fast growth communities in Texas."

- "The body of existing research demonstrates the critical importance that the early development of sum-

mer reading habits can play in providing the foundation for later success."

Pruett also wrote, "A bookmobile will help to keep New Braunfels a great place to work and live."

NBPLF board member Amy Lohse said the library has outgrown its current facility.

"The library has outgrown (its current) space. Circula-

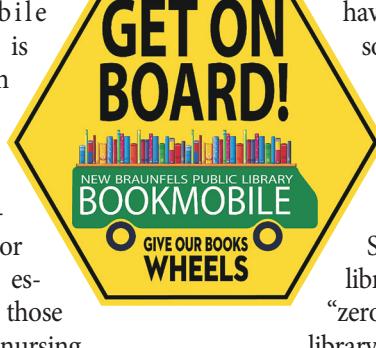
tion is so over the top they actually have to hold some back. They're bulging at the seams," Lohse said.

She said the library is a "zero growth" library, so every time a new book goes on the shelf another needs to come off.

"So the (bookmobile) is a mobile unit that would allow for travel throughout the town. It would also allow for circulation to be customized for where they're going. If they're going to a preschool or daycare they can customize it to that audience," she said. "They can issue library cards from the bookmobile, they can take in your book and they can also get your book (from the library)," she said.

Lohse said the flexibility of the bookmobile allows for individuals to check out a book from the bookmobile and return it at the library or vice versa.

For more information on the foundation, visit [www.nbplf.org](http://www.nbplf.org). For question or to inquire about how to donate, email [info@nbplf.org](mailto:info@nbplf.org) or call the foundation at (830) 221-4322.



## HOW TO CHOOSE HOSPICE CARE

Opting for hospice care is one of the most compassionate decisions you will ever make. Hospice provides support and comfort for people who need end-of-life care. You will find hospice workers in assisted living centers, nursing homes, hospitals and residential facilities. Some patients may even receive care in their own homes or the homes of friends and family.

It isn't only for the dying. Loved ones also benefit from hospice care, as workers will support them through some of the most difficult moments in life.

According to the Hospice Foundation of America, a third of all Americans choose hospice care when they are dying. And while all hospice centers are regulated by the government, each facility has meaningful differences in personnel, policies and facilities.

### LOCATION

Hospice specializes in making the patient feel as comfortable as possible. Care can take place anywhere. Patients can even receive treatment in their own homes, where they are most comfortable.

Some diseases may require more specialized care than others. The patient can also choose to stay in a facility that can give them easy, 24-hour access to nurses, medication, and medical equipment needed for their comfort.

It is always best to consult with a doctor regarding this decision. The hospice staff will meet with the patient's physician to talk about the current symptoms, medical history and life expectancy. Then

they will let you know which options are available to you.

### COMMUNICATION

Pick a hospice service that helps you feel at ease. You are going to have to ask and answer some extremely difficult questions. Death is a tough subject to discuss. Clear, caring communication is absolutely essential.

A quality hospice program will give you all the time and personal attention you need to ease your mind.

Part of picking hospice involves having the right feeling. If the hospice staff is personable and makes you feel comfortable, that's a good sign. Many people choose hospice care based on their gut feeling, and that's a good thing.

### REFERRALS

Every patient who receives hospice treatment must be qualified by a physician. Usually, this means there is a life expectancy of six months or less.

Since some physicians may hesitate to broach the subject of hospice care, you may need to bring it up yourself. Ask whether hospice care would be appropriate and which services might be most helpful to ease the end-of-life process.

You can also approach a hospice facility directly to ask about their services. They will help you determine which care is most appropriate.

Hospice care has been growing since the 1990s. Many people are realizing that it is possible to die with peace and dignity. Hospice makes the end-of-life experience better for the patient and loved ones.

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### To get involved ...

On April 15, 25 percent of sales at Great American Cookies of New Braunfels/Marble Slab Creamery will go to the NBPLF bookmobile campaign. From 3:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. there will be the celebrity scoop at Marble Slab, where people like Mayor Barron Casteel and Judge Rose Zamora will scoop ice cream for customers benefiting the bookmobile initiative.

There will also be events at the library that day. Starting at 9:30 a.m. there will be story time for children that will center on bookmobiles.

The NBPLF works to secure funding for things that tax dollars and the city cannot cover. Past projects the foundation has made possible include The Children's Room renovation, The Corner with vintage soda shop booths, wall murals and teen literature and a Starbucks coffee kiosk, to name a few.

The two annual fundraisers the NBPLF traditionally holds are the Stay at Home Book Ball and the Book and Author Luncheon. The former is an event where donors are asked to stay in their own homes, read a good book and send a check in gratitude for not having to dress up and attend one more gala. The latter is an event featuring some of the state's most noted writers and their latest books — this year slated for May 7 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$45 and tables are \$450. They can be purchased at the library. There will be a raffle at the luncheon that Lohse said includes some pretty big items.

### LIMB ON

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said the objective of the group and the walk-a-thon is to offer support and encouragement to those who have been affected by amputation.

"When I first started my businesses in Seguin, I always wanted to start a support group," Ritchie said. "We're a little more than a year old now. I recognized that a lot of people who are amputees don't know what to do or who to turn to. We're trying to get folks to maintain their activity level. Movement can save lives, and when people lose a limb — they can become sedentary."

The weekly support group meetings provide a place for sharing experiences, asking and answering questions and discussing the resources available for emotional and personal healing.

Anyone facing amputation or has already had an amputation of any kind is welcome to attend.

"These guys are so inspirational — they're awesome," Ritchie said. "You actually go through a grieving process when you lose a limb, which most people don't know."

Scudder, president of the Get Your Limb On amputee group and participant of the walk, lost a limb in 2012. In addition to wanting to give back, Scudder also counsels new members of the group who might have just lost a limb.

His message to them is simple: There is still hope.

"I always answer the question of what it will be like after it happens," Scudder said. "Well for me, some things are different, but I can still get up, walk, shop and put food in the bird feeder. We support each other though. Some days, life comes over all of us. When you have an extra thing to worry about, it's nice to have someone to call and talk to."

For more information about Ritchie Limb and Brace or how to support the Get Your Limb On organization, visit [www.rlandb.com](http://www.rlandb.com) or call (830) 433-9188.

## 5th Annual GRUENE LIONS SAFARI



Saturday, April 18, 2015

Who: 2-6 people per team

Where: Tavern in the Gruene

What: City-wide Scavenger Hunt

Cost: \$20 per person, \$15 advanced registration

When: April 18 - 11am registration, 12pm Safari start time

Register your team at [www.gruenelionsclub.org](http://www.gruenelionsclub.org)

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Texas and the Humane Society of the New Braunfels Area

Visit [gruenelionsclub.org](http://gruenelionsclub.org) for more information



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